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Linda McCulloch
Superintendent

TO: County Superintendents
District Superintendents

FROM: Bob Runkel and Nancy Coopersmith
Assistant Superintendents

SUBJECT: 2008-2009 Montana Response to Intervention Project Expansion Plans and
Application Packet

DATE: June 2, 2008

Response to Intervention (RTI) is a schoolwide process that provides high-quality academic and behavioral instruction and interventions matched to student need. Through this process students' progress is monitored frequently and teams of educators use the data collected to make changes in individual student goals and instructional delivery.

During the 2005-2006 school year, the Office of Public Instruction (OPI) initiated the Montana Response to Intervention (RTI) Project in four elementary schools across the state. Pilot site schools have adopted the RTI Framework to address instruction and have set the stage for statewide implementation. The OPI is seeking ten additional Montana Elementary schools who are interested in receiving technical assistance and support in implementing schoolwide RTI processes. A selection committee will carefully examine each application and select schools in a variety of phases of implementation of RTI. We will choose schools throughout the regions of the state based on geographic location and varying school sizes.

The OPI Montana RTI Project will offer training and support for selected teams. Schools who are chosen must work collaboratively to implement a tiered approach that utilizes a response to intervention process as a schoolwide effort and be willing to collaborate with an assigned RTI consultant. Since RTI processes will be implemented across general education, ESEA Title 1 and special education, it will require focused, collaborative leadership for success. We look forward to expanding the Montana Response to Intervention Project during the upcoming school year. If you are interested in this opportunity, please complete the attached application form and return to Tara Ferriter-Smith on or before June 13, 2008.

For additional information or questions regarding the application process, please contact Tara Ferriter-Smith, RTI Coordinator at (406) 444-0923 or tferriter@mt.gov.

2008-2009 Montana RTI Project Expansion Plans

Adapted from the West Virginia Department of Education, 2006

Opportunities for Participation:

- Participation in training led by state, local, and nationally recognized leaders;
- Collaboration with an RTI consultant who will make monthly school site visits to help guide RTI implementation, assist with problem solving, and provide ongoing professional development;
- Access to resources and materials developed through the RTI pilot project; and
- Opportunities to network, problem solve, share success, resources, and strategies with other schools implementing RTI throughout the state.

Participation Requirements:

Selected schools sites must agree to implement the following, based on the key components of RTI:

Collaborative Teaming

- Form a representative RTI Leadership Team
- Hold RTI Leadership Team meetings a minimum of one time per month

Evidence-based Curriculum and Instruction

- Implement an evidence-based core reading program
- Implement evidence-based intervention programs
- Commit time and resources to ensure that high quality academic and behavioral instruction is taking place

Ongoing Assessment

- Establish universal screening, diagnostic, progress monitoring, and outcome assessment processes to collect information to make decisions about instruction
- Establish a data management system, e.g., Reading: DIBELS, AIMSweb or Behavior: SSARB, SET (Schoolwide Evaluation Tool)

Data-based Decision Making

- Establish data-based decision-making teams that meet to collaboratively problem-solve student learning and behavior difficulties, e.g., Grade-Level Teams, Reading Teams, Data Teams, MBI Teams
- Allocate regularly scheduled times for these teams to meet

Training and Professional Development

- Participate in one of the following RTI Core Leadership Team Trainings
 1. August 5 and 6, 2008
 2. September 18 and 19, 2008



- Core Leadership Team attends three trainings that will be two days in length each for a total of six days throughout the 2008-2009 school year
- Collaborate with the RTI consultant to guarantee to work toward implementation of evidence-based curriculum and instruction with fidelity
- Institute ongoing professional development for **all** school staff in effective instruction, assessment processes, collaborative teaming, problem-solving, and other RTI processes with fidelity

Community and Family Involvement

- Promote community and family awareness of the RTI processes at your school



**Montana Response to Intervention Project
2008-2009 Application**

Please address *each item* below in your application.
Applications must be submitted to the OPI on or before **June 13, 2008**.

District: _____ School Building: _____

Special Education Cooperative (if applicable) _____

Principal: _____ Telephone: _____

Principal e-mail address: _____

Person/title completing the application packet: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail address: _____

1. Projected enrollment for 2008-2009:

Grade Level	Number Students	Number Teachers/Classrooms
Kindergarten		
First		
Second		
Third		
Fourth		
Fifth		
Sixth		

2. Is DIBELS or AIMSweb currently utilized in your school? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If so, at which grade levels? _____

Are **all** students assessed? ☐ Yes ☐ No

3. Is your school implementing a research-based core reading program?

☐ Yes ☐ No



If no, would your school be willing and able to allocate funding to purchase a research-based core reading program within a one-year time frame? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Current Program Name _____ Year _____

If yes, provide the name and year the program was published.

Name of Program _____ Year _____

4. Is your school implementing research-based reading intervention programs?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If no, would your school be willing and able to allocate funding to purchase at least three research-based intervention programs within a two-year time frame?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, provide the names of three intervention programs and the year each program was published.

Name of Program _____ Year _____

Name of Program _____ Year _____

Name of Program _____ Year _____

5. ESEA Title I eligible: ☐ Yes ☐ No

6. If yes, number of ESEA Title I teachers: _____ Describe how and to whom ESEA Title I services are provided.

7. Check all applicable school-based programs.

☐ Montana Behavioral Initiative

☐ Reading First

☐ Full-Day Kindergarten

☐ After or before school programs that address instructional tutoring

☐ Other _____



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District	_____
School Building	_____
Principal (required)	_____
Phone	_____
E-mail	_____
RTI Project Coordinator	_____
(required, this person can be the school site Principal)	
Name & Title	_____
Phone	_____
E-mail	_____

(Please list at least three additional members, more if applicable)

Name & Position _____
Phone _____
E-mail _____

Name & Position _____
Phone _____
E-mail _____

Name & Position _____
Phone _____
E-mail _____

Name & Position _____
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Name & Position _____
Phone _____
E-mail _____

Provide a brief rationale describing the school's interest in implementation of the response to intervention process. A successful Response to Intervention framework requires a *systemic approach* to early intervention and prevention of academic difficulties, tiered instruction, research-based core reading program, universal screening, frequent progress monitoring, differentiated classroom instruction, use of a problem-solving team approach, and ongoing professional development are fundamental to the process. Please discuss your staff's willingness to implement the aforementioned components of RTI.

[illegible]

Montana Response to Intervention Project Signature Page

Printed Name of School Site Principal (required)

Signature

Date

Printed District Level Administrator (required)

Signature

Date

Please e-mail or fax this information packet on or before **June 13, 2008** to:

Tara Ferriter-Smith
Office of Public Instruction
RTI Coordinator
PO Box 202501
Helena, MT 59620-2501
Phone: (406) 444-0923
Fax: (406) 444-3924
tferriter@mt.gov

